



## **Executive Committee of the Waterbird Conservation Council Conference Call July 8, 2003**

### **Participants**

All members of the committee were able to participate during some portion of the call: Kathy Parsons, Gerry McKeating, Eric Mellink, Eric Carey, Ghisselle Alvarado, Jim Kushlan, Pat Patterson, Melanie Steinkamp, Ian Davidson.

### **Discussion and Decisions**

#### **Council Operations**

Executive Committee reaffirmed that the work of the Waterbird Conservation Council should largely take place in committees.

*Decision:* Chairs of committees will be requested to provide informal progress reports a few weeks before Executive Committee conference calls/meetings, in order that Executive Committee members can review information and consider issues.

*Decision:* Individual Council members wishing to promote the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative are encouraged to do so as they see fit, but requested to inform the Communications and Marketing Committee of their efforts. For example, Ghisselle Alvarado is encouraged to submit waterbird initiative information to Brenesia, the National Museum of Costa Rica's journal.

#### **Workshop at the VII Congreso de la Sociedad Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación**

*Decision:* Agreed that Ian Davidson, as Chair of the International Advancement Committee should commit the Council to hosting a workshop at the Congress, occurring November 3-7, 2003 in Chiapas, Mexico.

The International Advancement Committee will be responsible for logistics and format. Some details: Workshop to be held between 2 and 8 November; tentatively 2 to 5 hours long; focus on promotion and advancing partnerships; may be able to glean regional data from participants. The International Advancement Committee will also arrange for a Spanish translation of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

Funds in the amount of US\$9,000 to US\$12,000 will be needed for the workshop (primarily travel of participants), and an NGO must be identified to hold these funds. Ian Davidson will provide a short concept paper to Pat Patterson in order to pursue donations from a promising source. In addition, Ian and Ghisselle identified other potential sources for the workshop and will work with the Resources Committee (Jim Woehr, Chair) to explore.

#### **Advancing Regional Planning**

Jennifer reported that Paul Schmidt has agreed to serve as Chair for the Regional Planning and Implementation Committee. He will solicit and secure additional membership from the full Council, and commence to strategize an endorsement process. Jennifer will soon complete her "diagnoses" of regional planning needs, and circulate this to the committee.

It was suggested and agreed to that when regional plans are completed, the Council should sponsor "celebrations" to increase the profile of the waterbird initiative and recognize the efforts of working groups.



## Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

The Caribbean regional planning efforts, like those of some other regions, have been stymied by a lack of "mechanism" to move the planning process along. Funding has for Caribbean regional planning has been secured from NFWF, but participation has been constrained by the complex and diverse nature of the Caribbean region. The Tobago meeting (July 21-25, 2003) is an opportunity to rejuvenate efforts.

*Decision:* All Council members should consider what resources they could supply to assist with regional planning. For the Caribbean, Ian will call on BirdLife staff to promote the planning efforts at the Tobago meeting.

### **Outreach via Two Initiatives**

Jim revisited the concept of the "Petrels and People" initiative, a campaign focused on highly imperiled waterbird species. This – and a second, as-yet undefined campaign – would be a project that all Council members should be able to stand behind, and include elements of public education, conservation action, support of existing efforts, and policy work.

*Decision:* The Communication and Marketing Committee, as well as the Conservation Action Committee, will be encouraged to make these initiatives a high priority.

### **Networking**

*Decisions:* The following appointments to U.S. working groups were made:

U.S. NABCI

NGO Subcommittee: Jim Woehr

International Working Group: Jack Capp, Melanie Steinkamp

Technical (Research/Monitoring): not determined

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Birds working group – Jim Woehr

Shorebird/Waterbird working group – Stephen Brown and Kathy Parsons

### **Strategy for meeting funding needs**

Kathy described a long talk she had with the Chair of the Resources Committee (Jim Woehr) about the need for a long-term, permanent funding source for the initiative. U.S. Federal funding is a target, so one strategy is to recruit lobbyists for Washington D.C. Jim W. will plan a Committee conference call for August 2003. Also, Ian offered to provide BirdLife's database of funding sources to the Resources Committee.

### **Agenda Items Not Discussed**

**Strategy to advance marshbird planning:** A responsibility of the Technical Services Committee.

**Enhancing feelings of initiative "ownership" in the conservation community.** How do we encourage continued involvement by persons already in the "WaterbirdNetwork."

### **Next Meetings**

**The next full Council meeting is scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2004 in Miami, Florida.**

Jennifer is seeking suggestions for meeting places.

Gerry McKeating proposed that the Council receive a presentation of funding opportunities (e.g., through North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act).

**The next Executive Committee conversation will be scheduled for September 2003.**